

CLAIMS

1. A method for scan to confidential print job communications, the method comprising:
 - at a source, scanning a document;
 - 5 accepting a password;
 - encrypting the scanned document; and,
 - transmitting the encrypted document with the password, from the source to a network-connected printer.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - at the printer, accepting the encrypted document and password;
 - accepting an access code at a local interface;
 - comparing the access code to the password;
 - 15 in response to a matching the access code to the password, decrypting the document; and,
 - printing the decrypted document.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1 wherein accepting a password includes accepting a password selected from the group including a PIN number, an alphanumeric code, biometric data, Smart card, magnetic stripe card, and proximity badge.
- 25 4. The method of claim 2 wherein encrypting the document includes:

at the source, deriving an encryption key from the password;
and,
using the encryption key to encrypt the document.

5 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
hashing the password; and,
wherein transmitting the encrypted document to a network-
connected printer, with the password, includes transmitting the encrypted
document with the hashed password.

10 6. The method of claim 5 wherein transmitting the
encrypted document with the hashed password includes transmitting a
file including:
an unencrypted header with an identification of the scanned
15 document and the hashed password; and,
encrypted document data.

 7. The method of claim 5 further comprising:
at the printer, hashing the access code; and,
20 wherein comparing the access code to the password includes
comparing the hashed password to the hashed access code.

 8. The method of claim 7 wherein decrypting the
document includes:
25 regenerating the encryption key from the access code; and,
using the encryption key to decrypt the encrypted document.

9. A method for recovering scan to confidential print communications, the method comprising:

at a network-connected printer interface, accepting an
5 encrypted document and password;
accepting an access code at a local interface;
comparing the access code to the password;
in response to a matching the access code to the password,
decrypting the document; and,
10 printing the decrypted document.

10. A scan to confidential print job communications system, the system comprising:

15 a scanner having an input to accept a paper media document and a user interface to accept a password, the scanner scanning the document, encrypting the scanned document, and transmitting the encrypted document with the password, on a network-connected output.

20 11. The system of claim 10 further comprising:

a printer having a network-connected input to accept the encrypted document and password, and a user interface to accept an access code, the printer comparing the access code to the password, and in response to a matching the access code to the password, decrypting the
25 document, the printer having an output to supply a printed copy of the decrypted document.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the scanner user interface accepts a password selected from the group including a PIN number, an alphanumeric code, biometric data, Smart card, magnetic stripe card, and proximity badge.

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13. The system of claim 11 wherein the scanner includes an encryption unit having an input to accept the scanned document and an input to accept the password, the encryption unit deriving an encryption key from the password and using the encryption key to supply
10 the encrypted document at an output.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the scanner further includes a hash unit having an input to accept the password and an output to supply a hashed password; and,
15 wherein the scanner transmits the encrypted document with the hashed password.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the scanner transmits a file with an unencrypted header including an identification of the
20 scanned document and the hashed password, and encrypted document data.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein the printer includes a hash unit with an input to accept the access code and an input to accept
25 the hashed codeword, the hash unit generating a hashed access code and

supplying a decision at an output in response to comparing the hashed password to the hashed access code.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the printer further
5 includes a decryption unit having an input to accept the decision from the printer hash unit, an input to accept the encrypted document, and an input to accept the access code, the decryption unit regenerating the encryption key from the access code and using the encryption key to supply the decrypted document at an output.

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18. The system of claim 11 wherein the printer user interface accepts an access code selected from the group including a PIN number, an alphanumeric code, biometric data, Smart card, magnetic stripe card, and proximity badge.

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19. A system for recovering scan to confidential print communications, the system comprising:

a printer having a network-connected input to accept an encrypted document and password, and a user interface to accept an
20 access code at a local interface, the printer comparing the access code to the password, and in response to a matching the access code to the password, decrypting the document, the printer having an output to supply a printed copy of the decrypted document.